

GREENSBORO PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, April 11, 2007 – 4:00pm

Brown Recreation Center – 302 E. Vandalia Road

PRESENT: Paul Brown, Marc Bush (arrived 4:09/dismissed 5:24), Robert Douglas, III, Ken Free, Lori Galbreath (dismissed 5:17), David Hoggard, Rose Marie Ponton, Randy Scott (dismissed 5:00)

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Steve Branson, Candice Bruton, Doreen Bryant, Jenny Caviness, Kristin Coffey, Courtney Hemphill, John Hughes, Terry Jennings, Darryl Kosciak, Bonnie Kuester, Dan Maxson, Lane Newsome, Eddie Pugh, Marcie Richardson, Mike Simpson, Laurie Thore, Mary Vigue (Budget & Evaluation), Chris Wilson

The regular meeting of the Greensboro Parks and Recreation Commission was held at Brown Recreation Center. Robert Douglas, III, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 14, 2007 Commission Meeting were approved as submitted.

Recognition

Bonnie Kuester, Director, recognized the Parks and Recreation April Employee of the Month, Steve Branson, and Employee of the Year Finalists, Jenny Caviness, Courtney Hemphill, Eddie Pugh, and Mike Simpson. Kuester also recognized Doreen Bryant, Walt Courman Award recipient.

OLD BUSINESS

Budget and Fee Schedule Update

Dan Maxson, Administrative Services Manager, stated that as requested by the Commission at the March meeting the proposed 2007-08 Budget and Fee schedule has been posted on the Parks and Recreation website. The fee schedule was also posted at recreation centers and communicated to the public from various staff. During this last month one comment came forth regarding the inline roller hockey program at the Sportsplex. No other comments came forth regarding the proposed fees. Maxson asked that the Commission fold any revisions into the fee schedule and then for the Commission make a recommendation to City Council for the adoption of these fees. Maxson then turned the presentation over to Lane Newsome, Sportsplex Manager, and Mary Vigue, Budget and Evaluation Analyst.

Newsome stated that the one comment received was in regard to the hockey camps and that the proposed increase was too large for these camps. Mary Vigue, Budget and Evaluation Analyst, conducted additional research and still recommends to increase the hockey camp fee from one hundred forty-nine dollars (\$149) to one hundred seventy-five (\$175) for Greensboro city residents and one hundred fifty-nine dollars (\$159) to one hundred eighty dollars (\$180) for non-city residents.

Vigue stated the additional research was conducted to see if the proposed fees were too high. The original research found that the fees were below other facilities; therefore the proposed increase was to raise fees in order to be in line with other facilities. The research found that two other facilities range from two hundred dollars (\$200) to three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) for hockey camps.

Rose Marie Ponton, Commissioner, inquired as to how the proposed fee changes were advertised other than on the Parks and Recreation website.

Newsome replied stating that the proposed fees were posted at the Sportsplex.

Douglas stated that we're to the point with the budget that if we don't raise rates we may lose programs. Douglas commended staff for their efforts regarding the proposed new fees.

Marc Bush, Commissioner, stated that from the Sports Commission stand point that very seldom do they hear a complaint from outside users or that they are going elsewhere due to our fees.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Marc Bush and seconded by Randy Scott to recommend the proposed fees be adopted by City Council. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Potential Budget Reductions

Maxson distributed to the Commission a printed document from the City of Greensboro website that shows proposed reductions.

The following is a list of the proposed reductions and any discussion that took place:

- Privatization of the City Arts dance program
 - Approximately a fifty-six thousand dollar (\$56,000) net reduction.
 - Request for Proposals (RFP's) would be sent to nonprofit groups in search of an organization similar to privatizing Visual Arts years ago. When this program was privatized the city gave up all expenditures and revenues. The citizens were not affected as this program continued with the same level of programming and same services. This would be the objective with the dance program. An RFP would be circulated and returned proposals would have to show that we would be able to provide the same level of service, have affordable programs and continue the quality of programs we have now. There is no guarantee that we would receive this type of RFP but it is worth investigating and reviewing returned RFP's, The citizens and participants will not be affected. The dance coordinator position is currently vacant and this privatization would not result of any full-time staff member.

Ponton asked if there have been any comments from the public and have any proposals come forth.

John Hughes replied stating no public comments have come forth and that the Greensboro Ballet and a group from UNCG has expressed interest.

- Increase of various recreation center fees, Sportsplex fees, and Gillespie Golf Course fees
 - One hundred eighteen thousand dollar (\$118,000) increase in revenue.
- Reduction of Lakes staff
 - Elimination of roster positions (part-time, non-benefited)
 - Savings of approximately sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000)
 - Lakes schedules would be altered to stay open a reduced number of hours but have one lake open at all times. Lake Higgins, lowest attended lake, would be closed Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Lake Brandt and Lake Townsend would be open.
 - This recommendation was based on statistics at each lake.

Ponton inquired about the effect this would have on programs conducted at the lakes.

Chris Wilson replied stating that staff from other areas in the department would assist with events and programs as needed, giving the example of the Reenactment and that staff from various Parks and Recreation facilities assists with this annual event.

Randy Scott, Commissioner, asked staff to consider opening Lake Higgins half days verses closing for the entire day or utilize volunteers.

Mike Simpson, Lakes and Trails Director, responded saying that during busiest times it is imperative to have two people at the lake, one staff person working in the lake office and the other person patrolling the lake. To maintain current hours of operation that would eliminate the second person and only allow one person at the marina and this would not be a safe environment. Staff considered numerous options and feel that this proposal is the most practical option.

Chris Wilson, Division Manager, stated that due to the safety of the public volunteers would not be an option.

Maxson added that plenty of notice will be given as to hours of operation and when the lakes will be open.

- Transfer of Hagan-Stone Park to Guilford County
 - This item was not included in the list distributed, but is being considered with the city currently exploring options and having some discussion with Guilford County at this time.
 - This park is surrounded by another municipality, Pleasant Garden.
 - Greensboro would continue operating this park, much like Bur-Mil Park.
 - Camp Joy would remain a Greensboro Parks and Recreation program.

Maxson stated that, if approved, the proposed changes would take effect July 1, 2007.

Action Taken

A motion was made by David Hoggard and seconded by Marc Bush to recommend City Council to approve the proposed budget reductions. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Capital Improvement Program

Candice Bruton, Strategic Planning Administrator, returned to the Commission stating that a Commission subcommittee was formed and a meeting was held to discuss the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP items were discussed during this meeting with the main focus being swimming pools. A strategy evolved from the subcommittee to perhaps replace the pools at Peeler, Windsor and Warnersville Recreation Centers with a sprayground. In addition, pursue a competitive swimming venue that would meet the needs of recreational users as well as a competitive venue. These type facilities would be contingent on a future bond referendum. This strategy could be included in the CIP next year which will allow time for research and more discussion.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Marc Bush and seconded by David Hoggard to support the Capital Improvement Program. A vote in favor was unanimous.

Potential Property Donation

Bruton informed the Commission that a developer is interested in giving Parks and Recreation one and a half acres of land located East of HWY 29 in Northeast Greensboro. There are no environmental concerns with this property. Parks and

Recreation staff has looked at this property and recommends accepting the land donation. There are no immediate plans for amenities at this location. If approved, the developer plans to come forward and ask that this park land be named in honor of his father.

Action Taken

A motion was made by Lori Galbreath and seconded by Ken Free to accept the one and a half acre park land donation. A vote in favor was unanimous.

NEW BUSINESS

2006-07 TYGR PAWS Golf Program

Darryl Kosciak, Youth First Coordinator, stated that the Teaching Youth Golf Recreation, Pride, Awareness, Wisdom and Self Esteem (TYGR PAWS) is a golf program held during the summer at Bryan Park. Funds for this program have been provided by USGA which includes funding to have instructors and transportation. Over the years USGA has reduced funds to the point where we needed to find matching grants.

In addition to USGA contributions, the Greensboro Jaycees have provided volunteers for this program and have supplied golf balls.

Terry Jennings, Gillespie Golf, presented a previous Greensboro Jaycees President with a plaque from Greensboro Parks and Recreation thanking the organization for their sponsorship and contributions.

2008 USATF National Masters 5K Cross Country Championships

Steve Branson, Hagan-Stone Park Manager, informed the Commission that over twenty years ago the manager of Hagan-Stone Park was approached by Charlie Brown with hopes of having a Cross Country Course at Hagan-Stone Park. During the course of these twenty years Hagan-Stone Park has hosted fourteen weeks of Cross Country, twenty cross country meets, which includes two hundred twenty-three high schools and ninety-one colleges and universities. The Hagan-Stone Classic included one thousand one hundred six runners and the Greensboro Invitational included two thousand thirty-nine runners. Hagan-Stone Park will be the site of the 2008 USA Track and Field National 5K Masters Cross Country Championship for runners ages forty and up with hopes of five hundred athletes from thirty-eight states.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Courtney Hemphill, Resource Coordinator, updated the Commission on the Friends of Greensboro Parks and Recreation Foundation. Hemphill stated that the Commission received minutes from the Friends Foundation inaugural meeting that was held in February.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Bonnie Kuester invited the Commission to attend the Grand Opening Ceremony of the David Caldwell Historic facility on April 20, 2007. Kuester thanked the Commission for their support and their attendance

COMMISSIONER'S COMMENTS

Paul Brown asked if Guilford County Parks and Recreation Liaison was contacted regarding this meeting.

Wilson replied stating he received notice of this meeting along with a Commission packet including minutes from the last Commission meeting.

Rose Marie Ponton commended Courtney Hemphill with her efforts regarding the Parks and Recreation Friends Foundation.

David Hoggard asked that the Commission attendance report be revised to state that he and Robert Douglas, III were present at the March Commission meeting.

Robert Douglas, III invited the Commission to attend the Citizen Board Member Forum that will be held in August 2007.

With no further business Douglas adjourned the meeting at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marcie Richardson, Executive Assistant
Greensboro Parks and Recreation